

Message Text

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TAGS: PINR, ETRD, GW
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON DR. GERHARD ABEL

REF: BONN 3703

1. GERHARD ABEL WAS BORN ON MARCH 10, 1934 IN GUNZEN-
HAUSEN, GERMANY. HE HOLDS THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC
DEGREES:

-- ECONOMICS AND LAW AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF BERLIN,
MUNICH AND ERLANGEN

-- REFERENDAREXAMEN AND ASSESSOREXAMEN (MASTER DEGREE)

-- PHD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN (LAW)

-- DEGREE AT THE INTERNATIONAL FACULTY FOR COMPARATIVE

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 04425 071334Z

LAW AT STRASBOURG

2. ABEL IS CURRENTLY COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COM-
MERCIAL AFFAIRS AT THE GERMAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, A POSITION HE HAS HELD
SINCE ABOUT 1970. PRIOR TO THAT ASSIGNMENT, HE WORKED
IN THE FOREIGN TRADE SECTION OF THE FRG MINISTRY OF

ECONOMICS FROM 1963 TO 1964 AND FROM 1966 TO 1970. IN 1965 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FRG MISSION TO THE OECD IN PARIS. IN 1974, ABEL PARTICIPATED AS A MEMBER OF THE FRG DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE.

3. ABEL HAS CONTRIBUTED NUMEROUS ARTICLES TO NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS ON EEC COMMERCIAL POLICY. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH, IN ADDITION TO FRENCH AND SPANISH. HE IS MARRIED TO A CUBAN WHOSE SISTER AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE TWO BOYS WHO HAVE BEEN GOING TO THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL IN BRUSSELS. ABEL TRAVELLED TO THE U.S. IN 1971 ON A U.S. LEADER GRANT.

4. ASSESSMENT: ABEL HAS HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH A NUMBER OF USEC OFFICERS DURING HIS TIME IN BRUSSELS. HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR WORKING VERY HARD AND FOR BEING WELL INFORMED ON ALL MAJOR EC ISSUES. WE HAVE FOUND HIM PARTICULARLY VALUABLE ON ENERGY AND TRADE QUESTIONS ALTHOUGH SOMETIMES CAUTIOUS IN HIS REPLIES TO QUERIES. ABEL IS SERIOUS, FRIENDLY AND APPARENTLY WELL DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. ALTHOUGH ABEL FEELS HE MAY HAVE SOME INITIAL DIFFICULTIES IN HIS NEW WORK BECAUSE HE IS YOUNGER THAN ALL HIS DIVISION CHIEFS, HE IS CONFIDENT THAT HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY WILL SOON OVERCOME THESE INITIAL PROBLEMS. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRUSSE 04425 071334Z

SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY WELL REGARDED BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY AND IN OTHER PERMANENT DELEGATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY. HE IS A VERY COMPETITIVE AND REASONABLY GOOD TENNIS PLAYER AND WILL BE UNDOUBTEDLY LOOKING FOR GOOD GAMES IN BONN. HIS WIFE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND HER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE U.S. IS AMBIGUOUS; WHILE SHE IS OCCASIONALLY CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS, SHE ALSO APPEARS QUITE FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF THE INFLUENCE OF HER SISTER WHO IS VERY OPEN IN HER ADMIRATION OF THE UNITED STATES. HINTON

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